

Season's Greetings



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Arkansas Union Man Wins Case Against Government Agency

An Arkansas member of the National Agricultural Workers Union won a case in court against an agency of the United States Government on September 19th.

12 years ago Joe Larkin was selected for the purchase of a small farm and home for his family on what was known as the Farm Security Administration Wolf Project, near McGehee, Ark. Each year Joe Larkin made a good crop and made his annual payment, as did other purchasers on the program. However, during World War II, the Congress of the United States made some changes in the government agency which was supposed to help ex-tenants and sharecroppers buy farms of their own. The Farm Security Administration program was abandoned. An agency for lending money to farmers with good credit ratings was set up, and named the Farmers Home Administration. Soon after the change was made, agents of the new Farmers Home Administration started making changes in the agreement and contracts the purchasers had signed originally. Men who had been on the program and had their holding partially paid for began to lose their farms. Negro farmers like Joe Larkin were most often the victims. By 1950 it appeared that every Negro farmer on the Wolf project would be forced off the FHA program. The FHA clients organized in the Union and decided to fight for their rights to buy a farm with government help. Joe Larkin agreed to be the member to test the government's right to foreclose his farm without cause. Early in 1951, Joe was notified by letter that he had failed to make

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"OUR GOAL IN 1953"



In 1953, the National Agricultural Workers Union plans to cover all of its members under a union contract. The prospects for this being done are excellent. In California the growers have indicated that they are willing to talk about a labor supply agreement in certain crops. In Louisiana the sugar cane workers are organizing and the prospect are that before the end of the year all employees on the 90 large cane plantations will be in the union and working under a contract. The fruit and vegetable producers have contracts with handlers. Dairy farmers in nearly ever area either own their own plants or have contracts with distributors. The goal for 1953 can be won.

Union Plans Program Apprentices Training

The mechanical cotton picker sat in on the Executive Board meeting of the National Agricultural Workers Union A. F. of L. at its recent meeting in New Orleans as leaders of the Union considered the problems posed by mechanization of all major crops.

The Executive Board meeting ended with plans made for an apprenticeship training program to be fitted to advancing mechanization in cotton, sugar cane and other field crops.

Officers of the Union reported shortages of skilled farm workers able to man and care for mechanical farm equipment of all sorts. Vice President George F. Webber, of El Paso, suggested that a training program be sparkplugged by the Union.

"Farm machines are worthless without men trained to handle them properly, repair and service them," said Mr. Webber, "We owe it to our industry to see that men are available in increasing numbers as the cotton pickers come from the factories."

The Union Executive Board designated a committee headed by Dr. Ernesto Galarza, Vice President from California and Research and Education Director for the national union, to study the training program. Other members of the committee are Vice President, George Stith and Vice President, George F. Webber.

"Nearly 18 years ago our Union began calling attention to the mechanization of agriculture and the possibility of harvesting the nation's cotton crop by mechanical pickers," said H. L. Mitchell, President. The Union president said

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Italian Officials Visit Louisiana

INDEPENDENCE, LA—Nov. 8. Eleven leaders in Italy's present fight against Communism visited the Hammond-Independence-Amite area today to inspect the methods and living standards of the small farmer in one of America's most interesting farming regions.

The delegation of 11 Italians are on a tour of the United States under the auspices of the U. S. State Department and Mutual Security Administration. Most of them are the heads of Italian national labor unions and occupy important offices in various branches of the Italian Federation of Trade Unions, the foe of Italy's Communists.

In a chartered bus they toured Louisiana farms and visited with farmers, watching them at work. They inspected Charles Sinagra's cold storage plant and Nick Cefalu's feed mill. Frank L. Anzalone and Carlo La Morca were among the other Independence Union men who led the tour.

The Italian visitors were the guests of the Fruit and Vegetable Producer's Union 312 of Hammond. Lester Felder of Springfield, president of the local union; George Forstall, secretary-treasurer and Hank Hasiwar, vice president of the National Agricultural Workers Union A. F. of L. accompanied the party.

A report on the land reform program in Italy was given by Angelo Formis, general secretary of the Italian Farm Workers' Union, at a spaghetti dinner served to the group at the Chic-an-Mac. Signor Formis led the delegation; other union officials among the visitors were Ugo Zino, general secretary of the Commerce Workers' Union and Franco Novaretti national secretary of the Textile Union.

An interpreter traveling with the group carefully translated the Italian talks into English and when Mr. Hasiwar responded translated his remarks into Italian.

Signor Formis explained how crowded are the Italian farm lands and how seriously the Italian people need to emigrate to other countries. Mr. Hasiwar thanked Italy for all the benefits brought to Louisiana by efficient and progressive Italian farm families who settled here many years ago.

The Italian visitors had an opportunity to taste Louisiana's strawberry wine, see a football game on a large television set in the parlor of a Louisiana rural home, and watch milking by machine in a model milking house on a Louisiana dairy farm.

"Twistems"

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On October 18, a hearing was held in San Jose, California by the California Department of Labor to investigate the charges made by the National Agricultural Workers Union A. F. of L. that deductions made from the wages of farm workers to pay for "twistems" was illegal and in violation of the State Labor Code.

Appearing in behalf of the National Union was Dr. Ernesto Galarza, Vice President. A delegation representing the Soledad Local Union No. 284 was composed of the following Union members: Vidal Garcia, Carmen Leon, Jessie Leon Nieves Gonzalez, Cruz Ibezo, Francisco Orduna, Manuel Ortiz and Encarnacion Ramirez. They presented direct testimony and a carefully prepared brief documenting the Union's charges. The following is an extract from the brief:

Carrot Tiers

Carrot harvesting in the Salinas Valley falls into two general types of field work—topping and tying. The issue before the Labor Commissioner is related to the second of these operations.

Carrot tiers work in the fields squatting or kneeling as they move along the furrows. Each tier is assigned a section of a row. This section is called a "claim". The work is done on a piece basis, the rate at the present time being 30 cents per field crate.

The carrots are tied in bunches according to size and grade. These bunches are then tied into units of six, on operation which is known as "tying sixes".

TWISTEMS

The individual bunches of carrots are tied with wires about seven inches long called "Twistems". Sixes are tied with a wire about sixteen inches long. Each wire is covered with a strip of paper from a quarter to a half inch in width. The paper strip, usually printed on both sides in colors, carries the name of the grower-shipper and the trade mark of the product. The Twistem is therefore of the nature of a wrapper and is also a device for commercial advertising. The printing on the strip does not carry a union label.

In 1951, in the Salinas Valley, Twistems were sold in bundles of 250 short wires. A charge of 32 cents was made for four of these bundles. The long wires for "sixes" were given to the worker free. Hereafter reference will be made to this unit of sale as a "full thousand."

In 1952 the wires have been sold at the rate of three rolls of 250 each and one roll of wires for sixes for the price of 65 cents. A bundle of long tie-wires contains 125 lengths. Hereafter reference will be made to this unit of sale as a "short thousand."

Tiers normally require a "short thousand" of Twistems to complete a lot of 21 field crates. It is estimated that about 28,000 wires are needed for each railroad car-load of bunched carrots.

Twistems Cost of Production Charged to the Worker

The wire wrapper is an essential element in the preparation of carrots for market. It represents a cost of production similar to that of cellophane bags in which some companies package carrots, or to the boxes in which fruit is shipped. Not only the harvesting but also the transportation, classification, grading, distribution and retailing of the product are conditioned by the peculiar and necessary use of Twistems.

The purchase of the wire is a condition precedent to obtaining employment in the carrot fields. If a tier does not buy the wire he cannot work.

The wire must be bought on the field where the work is done. It cannot be purchased in stores.

When a lot of bunched carrots is condemned by the government inspector, the workers lose both the wages represented in the work done and the cost of the Twistems.

Worker Pays Cost of Advertising

The grower-shipper obtains the Twistems imprinted with his special trade mark in box lots of 25,000. The wires are turned over

to foremen, labor contractors or other individuals who sell them to the tiers in smaller lots, usually three to four thousand. Some companies allow the foreman or contractor to make a commission on the sale. The distribution of the wire is governed by instructions given the field salesmen by the company.

Growers Net \$50,000 By Illegal Deductions

Between June 1 and October 1, 1952, about 3200 carloads of bunched carrots were shipped to market out of the Salinas-Watsonville area. Each railway carlot loading represents a shipment of 350 shed crates. At a round figure of 28,000 "short thousands" of wire per carload, the cost of wire to the workers amounts approximately to \$18.00, or a total cost of over \$50,000 for the period indicated above.

Typical cases, documented from receipts and pay check stubs, show that the charge for Twistems amounts to between 10% and 12% of take home pay. For example:

One family of three adult tiers worked for a week from four to six hours a day, excluding waiting time. The total number of hours worked was 90. Earnings of the three persons amounted to \$113.40 from which a deduction of \$13.00 for wires was made, leaving a net of \$100.40. The deduction amounted to something like 11% of wages.

One tier employed by farm labor contractor Modesto Urquidez earned \$44.70 for the week ending June 26, 1952. He paid a wire charge of \$4.55.

Large families of tiers—eight or nine in a family group—often pay as much as \$25.00 and \$30.00 in one week for Twistems.

Mexican Nationals Victims Of Twistem Racket

The lower the weekly pay the heavier is the burden of such deductions. Jesus Garcia Alcocer, a Mexican contract National (Number 771640) finished the week of June 11, 1952, with total earnings of \$15.30. The sum of \$8.75 was deducted for meals. Twistems cost him \$2.70 leaving a net take-home pay envelope of \$3.85. The wire charge represented about 66% of what this man kept in cash wages.

Contract worker Number 774456, employed by the Ship Shape Company during the week ending August 20, 1952, received a pay check with the following items listed: Total earnings—\$14.92; deduction for meals—\$12.25; deduction for wires—65 cents; net take home pay—\$2.02.

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Twistems

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Some Mexican Nationals employed in carrot tying have received what might be described as "minus" pay checks, representing net debits at the end of a week's work. A contract Nationals who wound up owing the company five cents after paying 65 cents for carrot wires might be said to have carried a proportionately heavier wire tax than a worker who managed to come out with \$2.02 on the credit side.

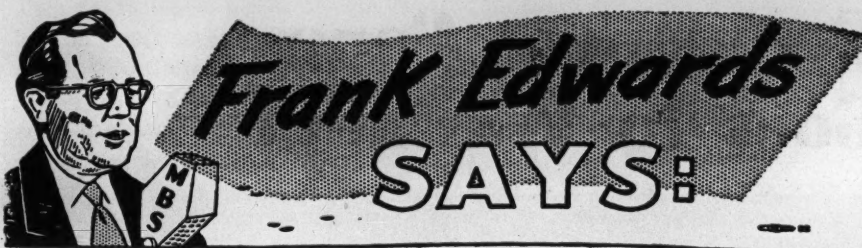
Here is another instance of how the economics of Twistems works from the standpoint of the tier: On September 3 a family of four adult workers was employed by the Arena Company. They finished 90 crates in one lot and 36 in another. The four persons put in a total of 44 hours in the field. They received \$27.00 in wages for the 90 crates. Payment for the additional 36 crates was deferred until the following week; but a charge of \$4.55 was made for Twistems used on the two lots. Net pay was therefore \$22.45. Wire deductions in this case amounted to about 18% of that day's wages. With a total of 126 crates tied and net wages of \$33.25 this family group averaged 75 cents an hour. They were expert tiers with many years of experience in this type of farm labor.

Twistems, Not A Sale But An Illegal Deduction

The California Civil Code defines a sale by contract as a transfer of property in goods for a consideration called a price. In the present case, the title to the wire never passes to the worker, although he pays a consideration called price. Quite obviously, the worker is not permitted to enjoy "quiet possession" of the wire after he has purchased it, as would be the case in a bona fides sale.

The compulsory purchase of Twistems is neither a sale by contract nor an assignment. It is an unauthorized and illegal deduction from wages. The evidence sustains this contention.

A check issued by Modesto Urquidez to one worker named John Rodriguez on June 26, 1952, itemized a charge of \$4.55 for tie-wires under the heading of "Deductions." Pay check stubs issued to contract worker C. M. Plata (number 765322) examined by the Union show "Deductions" listed totalling \$28.65 for Twistems. On one of these checks the take-home pay amounted to 60 cents. The Union has filed several requests for reimbursement to Mexican Nationals against whom "Deductions"



Washington, D. C.

Political Inventory:

The tremendous vote which swept Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower into office is both a tribute and a charge. As the man who would reduce taxes, conclude the Korean War and provide better defense against Communism . . . more than 30 million voters wanted him for President. Once he takes office, those same 30 million voters will expect the general to deliver the answers.

Admittedly this is a troubled world . . . and it is likely to be one for a long time. Many of the nations friendly to us are in serious straits as the result of 2 world wars. Elsewhere, especially in the Orient, the teeming millions who live on the edge of destitution are easy prey to Communism . . . unless we can lead them away. Our involvement in the Korean conflict reaches into many homes and casts its shadow over many more. The climate was right for a man who could provide answers to these matters . . . preferably quick, simple solutions.

When you read the headlines classifying the members of Congress as Democrats and Republicans, it is well to keep in mind that party labels are sometimes misleading. The Republican-Dixiecrat combination will have control of both houses. Their vote can determine the calibre of legislation and leadership the country will receive during the next administration. This coalition has been functioning effectively for several years . . . and it has been strengthened through the recent election by the increase in Republican members. For instance, the last session of Congress contained 40 progressive senators and 55 reactionaries. The next session will contain 38 progressive senators . . . and 57 reactionaries. Gen. Eisenhower's Congress will be dominated by a Republican-Dixiecrat coalition. Their voting strength will be so great that they can deliver the legislation he requests . . . or, if they choose, they can block him at every turn.

The success or failure of his administration seems to hinge on the influence he is able to wield on a handful of key figures . . . some of whom opposed him bitterly before his nomination . . . and since. The majority of the American voters have turned to Gen. Eisenhower in the belief that he could convert the Republican promises into realities. Time will tell.

amounting to \$45.25 were made. Farm Labor contractor Jesus Garcia who operates on an extensive scale in the Salinas Valley both with Mexican Nationals and "wet-backs" has regularly issued checks indicating charges for wire as "Deductions."

Articles 5 and 6 of the International Executive Agreement are regularly violated in this regard. The Agreement prohibits charges to the Nationals for "tools, supplies and equipment." Since the Agreement specifically lists all legitimate deductions that may be made, exclusion from this list of wire wrappers clearly indicates they are to be provided by the employer free of charge.

There is evidence that at least one grower-shipper has come around to this point of view. Contract Nationals employed in the Watsonville area for the week ending October 2, 1952, were not charged for wire. Their pay vouchers show no deductions of this kind. These men were working at standard piece rates of 30 cents per crate.

If this is true, and domestic

workers continue to be charged for the wire, the discrimination thus practiced should be stopped by making the wire available to all workers under the same conditions.

Union Plans

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the organization of farm workers had never opposed mechanization of agriculture. "If it is handled right, it can mean a higher standard of living for agricultural workers left on the farms. It can also take the women, children and the old people out of the fields."

COTTON MACHINE ROLL

Early in July a meeting was held by cotton growers, government officials and others in Memphis, Tenn., to set up a nation wide cotton picking machine exchange. With the help of Government officials a record will be made of all cotton picking machines in the country. The mechanical pickers will be mobilized to do custom picking all over the cotton belt, traveling from state to state as

the cotton opens and is ready for harvest. This will follow the pattern set in the wheat harvest where combines are used beginning in May in Texas and ending up in Canada in the late fall months. 60,000 such wheat harvesting machines are said to move each year. Soon we may find thousands of machines starting work in south Texas in July, and ending the season in California and Missouri in late December. It has been estimated that 200,000 mechanical cotton pickers can completely harvest the nation's cotton crop. The cotton growers are losing no time in getting the machines organized. It has been found that the machines can pick cotton at \$2 per 100 pounds, at a good profit to both grower and machine operator. Hand pickers can not live on a wage less than \$4 per 100 in this day of high living costs. The average picker can earn about \$6 a day at the \$4 rate.

On October 23, a follow up meeting was held in Bakersfield, California by cotton growers, cotton industry men and government officials to assess the effects of mechanical cotton pickers in harvesting the 1952 crop. It was reported that 12,000 mechanical cotton pickers had been registered by the various state employment service offices and estimates were made that as much as 30 per cent of the crop in the cotton belt would be harvested by mechanical pickers. In California, it was said that nearly 75 per cent of the 1½ million bale crop grown in that state was being harvested by machines, whereas last year nearly 50 per cent was picked by the big machine. Observers attending the demonstration of the various machines at the Shafter Experimental station near Bakersfield, reported that all of the machines picked the cotton but the main difficulty found was the lack of operators who knew how to keep the machines rolling.

SAME STORY ALL OVER

A drunk asleep in a bar began to show signs of life, so one of the customers smeared a little limburger cheese on his upper lip.

The drunk arose slowly and walked out of the door. In a few minutes he came back in. Then he went out again only to return in a few more minutes.

Shaking his head with disgust, he said: "It's no use—the whole world stinks!"

California Cotton Pickers Strike and Win

Again this year the cotton pickers' strike caravans rolled down the highways in the San Joaquin Valley of California. Led by officers of the Union's Valley Organizing Council, the cotton pickers won their strike for higher wages, boosting the rate of pay from \$3.00 to \$3.50, \$3.75 and finally, to \$4.00 per 100 pounds.

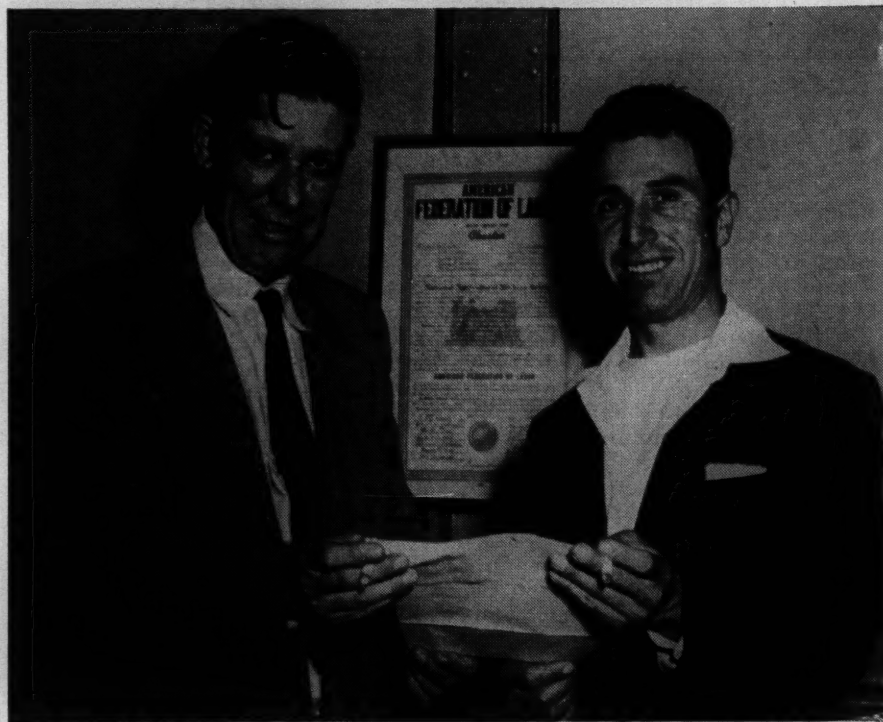
There were no arrests of strikers this time for the Union and the State Federation of Labor had won a case in court and had secured an injunction against officers of the cotton counties which prohibited them from interfering with the farm workers picketing by assembling in caravans of automobiles riding down the roads and calling on workers to strike for higher wages.

As is reported elsewhere, a large part of the 1952 cotton crop is being picked by machines, nevertheless, the hand workers won their strike. There were not enough machines to pick the big crop.

Has the Boll Weevil Found a Home In California

The State of California for many years has had ports of entry on all highways leading into the state, where all travelers are stopped while their baggage is searched by state officials claiming they are looking for insects such as the boll weevil. In the past, farm workers traveling in their jalopies from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, etc., have often been forced to unload their vehicles while their possessions were sprayed with evil smelling chemicals supposed to kill all kinds of boll weevils and cotton worms. It is thought that cotton picking machines coming in from various southern states were not as well deloused of boll weevils as the farm workers. Last year there were reports of the dreaded boll weevils appearing for the first time in the history of California. Fears were also expressed by cotton growers that the pink boll worm, the destroyer of cotton, has taken up his home in sunny California. The pink boll worm started in old Mexico and first appeared in the Rio Grande Valley section of Texas some years ago. Growers may also find that Mexican Nationals and wetbacks are as guilty as the machine operators of spreading the insects.

Companero Cano Goes to Washington



The first Mexican National ever to come to Washington to lay his problems before officials of the United States and Mexican Governments arrived on September 10th. He was Francisco Hernandez Cano, a spokesman for 3,200 Mexican Nationals imported into the Salinas Valley of California for farm work. Francisco Cano had joined the Union upon his arrival in California and was selected by his fellow union members to make the trip to Washington. He traveled by bus across the country and this was quite a journey for Cano speaks no English. Upon his arrival, he called on President H. L. Mitchell who arranged appointments with the Ambassador of Mexico, His Excellency Senor Raphael de la Colina, and with Mr. Robert C. Goodwin, Director of the Bureau of Employment Security in the U. S. Department of Labor.

Cano was accompanied by H. L. Mitchell, president of the Union, on his official calls, and interviews were arranged with representatives of the newspapers. He told his story about how his fellow workers from Mexico came to the United States and were mistreated by employers who charged them for wires to tie the carrots they harvest; made deductions for insurance policies; and charged them \$1.75 per day for food unfit for human consumption. He also reported that labor contractors and other agents of the large farmers threatened to deport Mexican Nationals if they joined the National Agricultural Workers Union.

JOINT INVESTIGATION ORDERED BY MEXICO—U. S.

An investigation of the situation reported by Cano was ordered by both the U. S. Department of Labor and the Mexican Embassy. Before Cano got back to Salinas, the employers were busy making changes in their way of operating, seeking to cover up the evils that had been reported in Washington. They were ably assisted by local officials of the Employment Service and the Mexican Consul from Fresno. Some three hundred Mexican Nationals were speedily interviewed, often in the presence of their employers' representative. The officials tried to cover up their evil doing in the Salinas Valley. There were threats to report Cano to Mexico immediately because he was courageous enough to go to Washington to tell his story. The Growers Association refused to give him a job, but they did not dare carry out their threats to deport him. The Union found a better job for Cano who remained in the Salinas Valley until his contract expired. The wages and working conditions of both Mexican Nationals and local American workers were improved substantially.

The Union is now awaiting a ruling from the California Department of Labor on the illegal deductions for carrot tying wires. If it is favorable, suits will be filed in behalf on both Mexican Nationals and local workers for the recovery of their money.

Puerto Rican Sugar Cane Workers Paid Low Wages

At hearings held by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in San Juan, Puerto Rico on September 25, union representatives presented the same pleas made by the National Agricultural Workers Union in Louisiana last July.

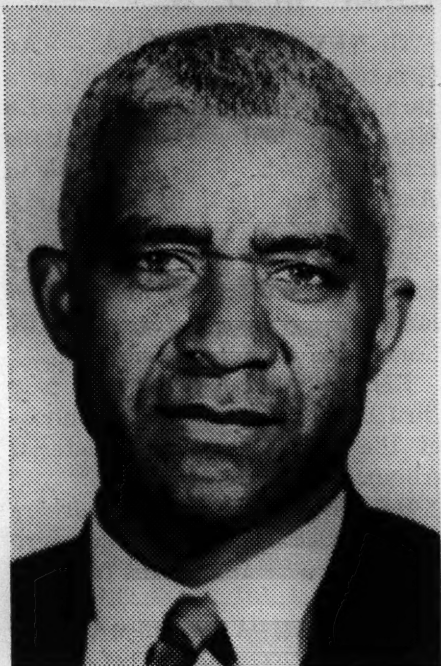
Union representatives charged that the Department of Agriculture has set wages of sugar cane plantation workers at levels which no civilized government would consider as "Fair and Reasonable." In 1952 wages paid to Puerto Rican sugar workers were fixed at \$2.99 per day. The sugar companies, many of whom operate in Louisiana, demanded that there be no increase in the wages paid to Puerto Rican plantation workers.

The tying of wages of sugar cane workers to the market price of sugar was condemned as unreasonable and unfair, because it gives an advantage to the growers whose workers produce more than the average for the island as a whole. The Unions maintained that if such a basis was to be used for setting sugar cane wage rates, then the minimums should be based on the production of the large efficient operators. The production of raw sugar cane in Puerto Rico is 31 tons per acre, whereas in Louisiana it averages 22 tons per acre.

It was revealed at the wage hearings in Puerto Rico that the profits received by growers had increased \$2.60 per ton from 1944 to 1952 and the workers had received 5 cents per ton although their production per man had doubled. It was also charged that sugar cane growers in Puerto Rico used the threat of more unemployment to prevent wages from rising.

Frank Sternback, speaking for the C. I. O. in Puerto Rico said, "There are some producers whose hearts really bleed for the workers. They hire twice the number of men needed (under the guise of giving more employment) but only for half days work, driving them in the early hours of the morning when the men are relative fresh and rested, and sending them away in the afternoon when they judge the workers' productivity has diminished because of their mornings labor and their general undernourished condition."

BETTON RETIRES



MY CAREER WITH THE UNION . . .

By F. R. BETTON

I joined the Union in July 1936. It was then known as the Southern Tenant Farmers Union and had been organized about two years. I was farming near Cotton Plant, Arkansas when the Union came my way. I was Justice of Peace in Richland Township and a member of the Monroe County Court for 23 years. I was the only Negro J. P. in Arkansas, and maybe in the whole South during all these years. My wife and I raised and educated 12 children. We owned a small farm and rented a larger one.

I was an active member in my local union for some months and the national office then appointed me as an organizer in my area. I organized about 65 local unions, averaging 100 members each. In 1938 at the 5th annual convention of the Union, I was elected by delegates as a member of the Executive Board and as Vice President. I carried on the work of the Union while continuing to farm each year, with the help of my family up until 1946, when I sold out and moved to St. Louis. I attended every meeting of the Executive Board and was a delegate to each convention held by the Union since that day. When the Communists tried to rule or ruin our Union, I helped H. L. Mitchell, who was then Secretary of the Union, and J. R. Butler who was President, take our Union out of the C. I. O. This was in 1939 when we defeated the Commies.

Two years later, I was on the delegation that appeared before the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in Washington to talk about the A. F. of L. setting up an agricultural union. The A. F. of L. wasn't ready at that time but promised to help us in any way they could. The A. F. of L. helped in Washington and every time we had a convention, an official representative of President Green was there to speak to us. In 1944 when our Union was holding its annual convention in Memphis, President A. Philip Randolph was in the city for a meeting of pullman porters. The leading Negro citizens of Memphis planned to hold a mass meeting for Randolph and Mr. Ed Crump, the boss of Memphis, would not let them. But Mr. Mitchell invited the chief of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters to attend and address our convention. Mr. Randolph came and gave a fine talk. A lot of city policemen were sent to the convention to "keep order" while Randolph was speaking. They stayed a while afterwards and some of them even became interested in the Union. A group of them asked President Mitchell if he would help them organize and get better wages from the city.

All during the war the Union recruited workers from the plantations and sent them to work on large farms and in canneries in New Jersey. This was done in cooperation with the Butchers Union. Sometimes the cotton planters tried to stop the workers from going out on the jobs even though they had no work to do at home. We just went ahead, operating a kind of Underground Railroad for our members. I would tell the workers when the shipping day was to be and they would come into Memphis and we would ship them out to jobs. This work must have convinced the A. F. of L. that we meant business.

In August 1946 another delegation was selected to go before the A. F. of L. Executive Council meeting in Chicago at the Drake Hotel. I was a member of the Union's delegation and when we asked for a charter this time, it was granted. The name we used was National Farm Labor Union. Soon after this President William Green hired me as an A. F. of L. organizer assigned to work mainly with our National Farm Labor Union. As an organizer, I worked in the mid-South, and also helped organize in Florida and California. With the help of the A. F. of L. we set up union locals in 18 or more states.

In 1948 I was a member of the

Union's delegation which met with the Mexican trade unions at Laredo to work out a joint program for stopping the exploitation of "wet-backs." This was not the first time I had met Mexican workers. In 1939 I had made a trip with Mr. Mitchell to Torreon, in the state of Coahuila, Mexico to visit the cotton farms which the president of Mexico had set up for the Mexican field workers.

In 1950 I looked over the situation in eastern Arkansas and found that there were many little farmers who had managed to get a small piece of land after having to leave the cotton plantations because of changes in farming methods such as mechanization and the use of day labor. I consulted our national headquarters and others in our membership about doing something to help these people. Rev. Arthur Churchill and I got 25 of these ex-sharecroppers and tenant farmers together and they agreed to plant two or more acres of vegetable crops for the Memphis curb market. None of them knew how to raise anything but cotton. We couldn't get much help from the County Agent as he was too busy to bother with a bunch of little farmers who did not know how to farm. I got all the help I could. One of my sons, a graduate of the Arkansas A. M. and N. College who also works for the State Extension Service, gave me some advice. As best I could, I showed the farmers how to plant, cultivate, harvest, and prepare their crops for the market. Rev. Churchill helped too. One of our project members raised \$2,100 worth of products and others averaged about \$350.00 each. Not much was done in 1952 because of the drouth, but they are now on the right road and learned they can make money out of something besides cotton and corn on their few acres. I am much encouraged to note that the small farmers in Louisiana and other places are coming into the Union and working out their marketing problems.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Union, my fellow officers and members for all of the great things it means to me and others. It is one place where all men, regardless of race, creed or nationality can come together and act like men.

I now make my home in St. Louis Mo. and my address is 1151 Bayard Ave. Although I am officially retiring on my pension from the Union and Social Security benefits, I do not intend to stop my work. I shall continue to come to the aid of my fellow union members even at the risk of my life.

Negroes Voted Democratic Despite G.O.P. Landslide

NEW YORK, Nov. 6.—The popular Republican upsurge which swept General Dwight D. Eisenhower into the White House failed to carry predominantly Negro districts, a survey by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People indicates.

Reports received at the NAACP office here from thirteen cities show that Negro citizens voted overwhelmingly for Governor Adlai Stevenson, the Democratic candidate for president. In these cities as a whole Negroes voted about 3 to 1 for Gov. Stevenson. In some of the cities the pro-Stevenson ratio was much higher, as in Detroit and Durham, N. C., where the ratio was 9 to 1.

Fresh Canned Milk Makes Bigger Farms

Canned fresh whole milk will be a product of large farms, and for that reason make it harder for the family-size dairy farm to survive.

For a year now fresh milk, canned, has been going from East Stanwood, Washington to such far places as Alaska, the Philippines and the armed forces in Korea. It has never hit air until the consumer opens the can. Straight out of the cow's udder through milking machine outlets held by suction on the teats, it goes through sterile pipes to a vacuum tank. There it is homogenized and flash-sterilized. From there it goes directly into the inside-lacquered containers in which it will reach the customer. Never having been exposed to air or other sources of bacteria it can be kept indefinitely fresh at a wide range of temperatures. In flavor it is said to be indistinguishable from fresh homogenized milk.

Now it goes to the American public through dime vending machines.

By this process fresh whole milk can reach further markets than by any other process. It may also take over a slice of the previous market for milk through either more convenient or less costly distribution. But it is a market obviously only for milk produced on large farms where enough milk is produced to warrant the capital investment.

The decrease in the number of self-employed farmers — important politically and socially as well as in American economics—is thus given one more big shove.

Effect of Ike's Victory On U. S. Policy Studied

The effect of the Eisenhower victory will be felt more on domestic than foreign policy. With the Dixiecrats continuing their coalition with reactionary Republican Congressmen, the GOP will have control and responsibility. Since 1932 the Republicans have been the party of obstruction. Now they have the means of carrying out policy. What it will mean for the people of the nation has been made plain by the party record in the Congress, by the party platform, and by the promises made by Gen. Eisenhower in the campaign.

Price Controls

Appear doomed. Ever since the Korean War began and inflation threatened the nation, reactionary Republicans have been crippling the controls planned by the administration. The Capehart and Herlong amendments were 2 of the GOP measures that greatly reduced the effective possibilities of administration controls. The Republican platform omitted any reference to price controls whatsoever, despite the grave inflation threat, but the anti-control actions by the party in the past, leave little doubt about what will happen to them in the future.

Rent Controls

These controls also have been more and more weakened by obstructionist amendments. The Republican policy traditionally is to let the laws of supply and demand operate almost without hindrance. The GOP platform called for ending rent controls except in defense emergency areas.

Housing

Policy under the Republican administration may be tailored by Sen. Taft, who on this issue, has a unique strain of liberalism. This is another subject that was not covered in the Republican platform. In any case, slum clearance and public housing may be curtailed and there is even some concern about defense housing.

Taft-Hartley Act

Repeal is obviously out, but some amendments are likely. The form these will take will depend upon whether the new Congress considers it more important to get legislation in the spirit of aiding management and labor to work together, or whether it takes an anti-labor attitude. This act was one of the products of the last Congress in which the Republicans had control.

Economy-Taxes

The incoming Chief Executive made generous promises of economy. Now he faces the task of trying to effect reductions, especially in the major item of defense costs without endangering the effectiveness of our defense. Slashes are certain, but it is doubtful that the lower-income groups will be the ones to benefit from the resultant tax cuts. A general federal

sales tax, which has been pushed by the NAM and similar organizations, may be in the offing.

Civil Rights

Legislation is doomed. The Republican Party platform and Gen. Eisenhower emphasized that this job should be taken up on the state level. It is vain to hope for action in those states where civil rights legislation is most needed. Definite promises were made by the candidate on ending segregation in the District of Columbia.

Social Security

One field in which there is reason for hope that there may be some extension of coverage and some increase in benefits. The Republican platform favored extension of Social Security for those still excluded, and Gen. Eisenhower emphasized the need of taking better care, in these times of inflation, of the older citizens. On the other hand, there is little likelihood of enacting disability insurance, or improvement in unemployment insurance.

Health Insurance

Definitely dead for the next 4 years. The Republican platform condemned the whole idea. The report of the President's special commission now studying the nation's health needs will have little more than educational effect.

Aid to Education

On a federal level, will suffer. The Republicans, in accordance with their philosophy, have said that the burden should be borne on the state and local level, even though the areas where the education need is greatest can least afford to carry on adequately.

The tidelands oil won't be used for education. The tidelands will be turned over to California, Louisiana and Texas Oil Companies. The people in those states won't get anything but the oil millionaires will—and they will soon be claiming the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean as well.

One Politico for Another in Labor Department

There will not be too much change in Washington as far as members of the National Agricultural Workers Union are concern-

ed. In the U. S. Department of Labor there will be a new Secretary—probably the same kind of a politician who has run this agency since 1948, who with his top associates will make the policies. But these policies will be carried out by the government employees, many of whom are friends of the agricultural worker. They are protected by Civil Service and cannot be fired with a change in Administration. Most of our real friends will still be in that agency, along with a few enemies as well.

To Lose Friend in Agriculture Department

The Department of Agriculture, essentially an agricultural employer agency administered by Civil Service employees, most of whom were placed on their jobs by the big farm organizations, will remain the same. The best friend the little farmer had was Charles F. Brannan, the present Secretary. Surrounded as he is by men who believe that small farmers should be thrown on the scrap heap, even Brannan could do very little. But Brannan would listen to the little farmer's problems and speak for them when he could. After January 20th the new Secretary of Agriculture will probably be a spokesman for the upper 10 per cent of the nation's farmers, and have no time for the little farmer—nor for the agricultural worker, except to see that the big farmers get plenty of labor at low wages.

A Good Reason

Sweet young thing (from the city)—“Oh, what a strange looking cow! But why hasn't she any horns.”

Farmer (explaining)—“Well, you see, some cows are born without horns and never had any, and other shed theirs, and some we dehorn, and some breeds ain't supposed to have horns at all. There are a lot of reasons why some cows ain't got horns, but the reason why that cow ain't got horns is because she ain't a cow—she's a horse.”

Reports 'Forced Labor' in U. S.

GENEVA, Switzerland. — An American who billed himself as a former spy in the Atlanta, Ga., Ku Klux Klan told a United Nations committee today 5,388,211 people in America are “held in involuntary servitude.”

The witness, who said he was Stetson Kennedy, 36, of Switzerland, Fla., spoke before the UN Committee on Forced Labor.

Kennedy said his trip was paid thru collections “from the pulpits of the Negro Baptist Ministerial Alliance of Miami, Fla.”

He claimed the forced workers were Mexicans and white and negro share-croppers and tenant farmers.

FAINT-HEARTED MAN

As a married couple reminisced the husband remarked, “By the way, wonder whatever became of the old-fashioned girls who fainted when a man kissed them?”

His wife gave him a withering look. “What I'd like to know,” she retorted, “is what happened to the old-fashioned men who made them faint!”

PLUMB WORE OUT

Back in the hill country two neighbors were arguing over the death of a cow. It seems the cow had strayed into the still belonging to one of them and had subsequently died after drinking a considerable amount of moonshine.

“It waarn't my likker what killed your cow—she come home to you giving egg nog and you milked her to death.”

Hard to Take

He was in the habit of opening his Bible at random and taking the first thing upon which his eyes alighted as something that would be helpful to him.

One day the verse he read was, “Judas went out and hanged himself,” and not thinking this quite suitable, he shut the book and opened it again at another place. The verse his eyes fell upon was, “Go thou and do likewise.” He tried again, and this time he read, “What thou doest, do quickly.”

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233)

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H. L. Mitchell, President.
Dorothy Dowe, Secretary Treasurer.

H. L. MITCHELL, Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of October, 1952.
(SEAL) ROBERTO STEWART
(My Commission expires Aug. 14, 1955.)

What the Election Means to Us

There is an old folk saying that, "It's an ill wind that blows no good." This may well be true of the 1952 election. Already organized labor, A. F. of L. and C. I. O. officials, are ready to talk of greater co-operation and possible unity to meet the coming storm brought on by the popularity contest November 4th.

Little Change in Congress Dixiecrats in Saddle

The election did not materially change the picture in the Congress in spite of the fact that 33 million Americans chose the General for President. The Republicans will have a small majority in the House and Senate, and therefore be in control. The American Federation of Labor says there are 159 liberal members of the House of Representatives and 38 liberal Senators, which is nearly as many as were in the last Congress. The reactionary Dixiecrat-Republican coalition that functioned in the last Congress will again be in the saddle.

The South To Rise Again

Of even greater importance to the future of the country and the welfare of little people on the land—the farm workers and small farmers, is the political change in the South. Dixiecrat Kennon of Louisiana, Shivers of Texas, Byrnes of South Carolina and Byrd of Virginia openly supported the Republican party and even greater numbers of the one-third of the southern people in the upper economic bracket voted for Eisenhower. For the past 20 years they have been against the New Deal and Fair Deal and had an undying hatred for both Roosevelt and Truman. The strange alliance of northern labor and southern cotton planters first welded together by that master politician, Franklin D. Roosevelt, split wide open in 1952. Now there is room in the South for two parties, one representing the workers, the farmers and little businessmen, and the other representing big business in both industry and agriculture. The little people on the land—the farmer and farm worker can be effective politically, as was shown in the results of November 4th, when they were organized. In Louisiana, in areas where the Fruit and Vegetable Producers Local 312 is organized, reports show that Stevenson got 6 votes to Eisenhower's 1 vote.

Werdell defeated for Congress by Farm Worker Votes

In California, arch reactionary Tom Werdell of Bakersfield, was defeated by Harlan Hagan, labor endorsed candidate for Congress. Werdell, a tool of the Di Giorgio Corporation and other Associated Farmers, met his defeat on November 4th. In election precincts where farm workers made up the majority of the votes, three to one were for Hagan. Hagan is a Democrat and Werdell a Republican.

There is no question but that the votes of the members of our Union were decisive. A new political alignment is now in the cards. We can look to the building of a political machine based on the interests of little people both in the cities and in the rural areas as our hope for the future.

Union Seen as Base For Political Action in Rural Areas

The National Agricultural Workers Union can become a real base for rallying the little people on the land to work on both the economic and political fields for the common interests of the common people. We haven't lost much by the election of Eisenhower. For the past 20 years the lowly agricultural workers and the small farmer have been left out of practically all the benefits of social legislation. We do not expect the new administration to do anything for us, but we do expect organized labor to get together and start fighting back. 15 million organized workers cannot be kicked about even under a Republican Administration in Washington, unless they want to be.

All Labor On Outside For 4 Years

However, it is no longer going to be possible for an officer of a big union to walk into a government office in Washington, lay his problems before a sympathetic official, and because he represents so many hundred thousand votes, walk out with a victory for his membership in his pocket. Organized labor is going to be in the same position that the agricultural workers and little farmers have been for the past 20 years, "on the outside looking in," for the next four years at least. Victories are going to be won on the picket line and at the ballot box.

Pennsylvania Dairy Local Reports Good Year

The Associated Milk Producers and Handlers Local Union 292 of Butler County, Pennsylvania at their monthly meeting on September 10th, heard reports of a most successful year's operation. Mr. Bachman, manager of the Union Dairymen's Co-operative Association, reported to the members of the local union who own the co-operative that their recently purchased \$185,000 milk plant was ready for full scale operation. The Co-operative owns its own fleet of trucks and has a 10 year contract with the Page Dairy Products Company of Pittsburgh for the sale of all milk produced by the members of Local 292 at market prices.

During the past year a smaller plant handled 3,000 gallons a day and it is estimated that the plant with its new equipment will handle at least 6,000 gallons a day.

About 100 of the Local Union's 200 members turned out to hear the report on the co-operative's business and to meet President H. L. Mitchell of Washington, who addressed the meeting. Mr. Joseph Logut, President of Local 292, presided at the meeting and dispatched the Union's business in a most inspiring manner. The Local's efficient secretary, Dale Fleming, was at his post. Reports were made by regular and special committees. Representatives of the Local Union who attended the hearings of the State Milk Control Commission made a report on the consideration members are now receiving from this official body.

President Mitchell of the National Agricultural Workers Union complimented the Local Union officers on the manner in which the Local Union's business is now being conducted. He said that he was very glad to see that the officers of this local union are young active men. A large number of the members of the Local are young men and all are active trade unionists. Many of the Pennsylvania dairy farm members were once coal miners and others formerly worked in the Pittsburgh steel mills.

SOCIALISM?

A soldier parked an army jeep and started walking down the street. A policeman called after him: "Hey, buddy, drop a nickel in that parking meter."

"Put it in yourself," the GI yelled back. "That jeep belongs to you as much as it does to me."

Blind Greed of 'Farm Brokers'

Members of the National Association of Real Estate Boards, the main branch of the "Real Estate Lobby," met this week at an expensive resort in Miami Beach. Delegates to a "farm brokers" session heard something which made them rub their hands with glee. Their president predicted that the prices of farm lands will continue rising beyond their present record peak.

Farm land prices have been "too low" for a long time, he said, because farms have been "undercapitalized." In plainer words, not enough speculative profits and bank mortgages have been piled on the backs of working farmers.

Inflated land prices "realtor" profits, and the resulting heavy mortgages, were a main cause of the farm crash of the 1920's, the misery of millions of working farmers, and the general depression which began in 1929.

In their blind greed, the "farm brokers" forget all that. They gleefully welcome the rising farm prices which are a danger sign.

Christian Code For Farmers

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Luigi G. Ligutti of Des Moines, Iowa, has issued a set of standards for the Christian farmers of America. Msgr. Ligutti is the vigorous executive secretary of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference. His code follows in part:

"A Christian farmer pays a just wage to his hired hands. No matter who your hired hand is, he is God's creature, made to the image and likeness of God. He too was redeemed by Christ. He is destined for eternity as you or I.

"A Christian farmer does not cheat or chisel even if he can get by with it.... He pays what is right, even if the hired hand is a 'wet-back', a foreigner, a child or a woman.

"A Christian farmer lives up to the golden rule, 'Do unto others as you would have others do unto you'.

"A Christian farmer is ever generous toward the poor and the lowly. He knows what Christ said. He knows what Christ did. He knows that Christ is found under the dark skin of a man who bends low in the beet fields or reaches high in the orchard.

"The Christian farmer asks himself this question: 'How would I treat Christ if He were working for me?'"

Arkansas Farmer Wins

(Continued from page 1)

his payment on November 30th., the date it was due; that he had not carried out the crop program laid down by the FHA county supervisor; and that he would therefore be required to leave on January 1. Larkin had a receipt showing that he made his payment on December 3rd. The Local Union officials wrote the National Office in Washington, who took up Joe Larkin's case with officials of the Farmers Home Administration. Washington attorneys for the Union made a thorough examination of Larkin's legal rights under the law and advised that the case be taken to court. Union attorney, J. Ross Robley of Little Rock, was engaged to represent Larkin. Fellow members of Local Union 168 at McGehee raised \$250 to help Joe Larkin pay the court costs. The suit was decided in favor of Joe Larkin by the U. S. District Court in Arkansas. The Judge ordered agents of the Farmers Home Administration which had cancelled the old purchase and lease agreements, to give Joe Larkin a new contract providing for an outright deed to his farm, with the mortgage held by the government for the balance due.

The outcome of this case is of greatest importance to those farmers who are buying farms from Farmers Home Administration. The Arkansas and Washington bureaucrats have been ordered by the court to stop evicting farmers from their lands without a reason.

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"Asleep at the Switch"



QUEER CONTRAST

Canadian Railmen Curbed As Mexican Aliens Pour in

A two-pronged attack on American immigration practices was made by Frank L. Noakes, research director of the Maintenance of Way Employees, before the President's Commission on Immigration and Naturalization. He appeared as spokesman for both his Brotherhood and the Railway Labor Executives' Association.

Noakes charged that failure to control the flood of "wetbacks" on the Mexican border, together with the policy of importing Mexicans for work on "factory farms" of the West and Southwest, have caused much unemployment for Americans in the railroad industry. Large numbers of these Mexican Nationals who are here illegally eventually turn up on railroad jobs, he pointed out.

On the other hand, strict regulations along the Canadian border, he said, cause hardship to Canadian railroad union members whose work brings them into the United States. He asked the Commission to recommend to Congress that both problems be corrected.

Congress Wetback Bloc Stops Funds to Enforce New Law

Making good on their threat to prevent enforcement of the recently improved immigration laws, large farm operators in Texas and other southwestern states persuaded the U. S. Congress to refuse to appropriate money needed to carry out the law Congress passed early in the year, which penalizes persons transporting, harboring and concealing Mexican wetbacks.

Thirty days before the 82nd Congress came to an end, a bill providing a million and half dollars to construct two detention centers for processing illegal aliens captured in the United States was put through the House of Representatives over strenuous opposition of Texas Congressmen Bentzen and Fisher. This bill had already been approved by the Senate. Part of the money granted was to operate an airlift to return wetbacks from the border to points far in the interior of Mexico during the month of July. New York Congressman Rooney was credited with defeating the "Wetback Bloc," when he named many persons as guilty of hiring wetbacks, he included Governor Allan Shivers of Texas, as well as many prominent citizens such as bankers, cannery operators as well as large growers in the Rio Grande Valley.

But the ace in hole of the wetback bloc proved to be none other than Senator Pat McCarran of Nevada, who led a successful fight to cut out all money to employ more border patrolmen, operate the airlift and the detention centers. Economy minded Senators bent on election, voted McCarran's way in spite of efforts made by Senator Humphrey of Minn., Senator Magnuson of Washington and others to get more money for enforcing the new immigration law.

